

AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 - 44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) A toothbrush comprising:

 a handle;

 a neck connected to said handle;

 a head connected to said neck and having a rigid portion having a first surface and a second surface, and a movable portion having a first surface and a second surface, wherein said rigid portion is non-movable relative to said neck and wherein said movable portion is movable relative to said neck;

 a mechanical vibratory device which causes the head to vibrate;

 wherein said rigid portion comprises a plurality of first cleaning elements extending from said first surface of said rigid portion that are fixedly mounted to the rigid portion, said rigid portion being an upstanding wall that creates a peripheral frame having a central opening;

 wherein said movable portion comprises a plurality of second cleaning elements extending from said first surface of said movable portion that are fixedly mounted to said movable portion, said movable portion located within the central opening;

 an annular gap in the head positioned between said rigid portion and said movable portion;

 a resilient membrane for flexibly attaching said movable portion to said rigid portion, said membrane positioned in a part of said gap; and

 a plurality of third cleaning elements, each third cleaning element mounted on said resilient membrane and connected to both said rigid portion and said movable portion; wherein no portion of any of the third cleaning elements extends outwardly beyond the second surfaces of said movable and rigid portions under any condition.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein the plurality of third elements comprise movable wipers generally arrayed in surrounding relation to said plurality of second cleaning elements.

49. (Previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 48, wherein the movable wipers rotate towards one another upon application of sufficient force on the toothbrush and away from each other upon release of that force.

50 – 76. (Canceled)

77. (Previously presented) A toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein said mechanical vibratory device is located in the head or in a region adjacent to the head and operatively connected to an electric power source.

78. (Canceled)

79. (Previously presented) A toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein the first, second and third cleaning elements extend approximately the same distance from the head when no force is applied to said toothbrush.

80. (Previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is movable toward at least one of said first and second cleaning elements.

81. (Previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45, wherein the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements is movable toward each of said first and second cleaning elements.

82 – 87. (Canceled)

88. (Previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45 wherein the first surface of the

movable portion remains aligned with or below a plane defined by the first surface of the rigid portion under any condition.

89. (Previously presented) The toothbrush according to claim 45 wherein said resilient membrane is made of an elastomeric material capable of flexing and recovering randomly during use of the toothbrush.

90. (Currently amended) A toothbrush comprising:

a handle;

a head connected to the handle and having a front side and a rear side, the head comprising:

an upstanding wall that forms a peripheral frame that circumferentially surrounds a central opening;

a platform positioned within the central opening so that the platform is separated from the upstanding wall by an annular gap; and

a resilient material positioned in at least a portion of the annular gap that flexibly attaches the platform to the upstanding wall;

a first group of cleaning elements fixedly mounted to and extending from said upstanding wall;

a second group of cleaning elements fixedly mounted to and extending from said platform, the first and second groups of cleaning elements extending outward from the front side of the head; [[and]]

wherein upon a user contacting one or more teeth with the first and second groups of cleaning elements and applying pressure, the resilient material flexes and the platform moves toward the rear side of the head, allowing the first group of cleaning elements to contact areas of the teeth located further from the head; and

a third group of cleaning elements mounted on the resilient material and extending outward from the front side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements arranged on opposing sides of the platform so that as the platform moves toward the rear side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements rotate inward toward the second group of cleaning elements.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 90 wherein the resilient material that flexibly attaches the platform to the upstanding wall is a flexible elastomeric material.

93. (Previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 90 wherein the resilient material that flexibly attaches the platform to the upstanding wall is in a form selected from a group consisting of a membrane, plastic straps, webbing, and a plurality of spaced-apart bridges.

94. (Previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 90 wherein the handle further comprises a neck, the upstanding wall being non-movable with respect to the neck.

95. (Previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 90 wherein the first group of cleaning elements circumferentially surround the central opening.

96. (Currently amended) The toothbrush of claim 90 further comprising:
~~a third group of cleaning elements mounted on the resilient material and extending outward from the front side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements arranged on opposing sides of the platform so that as the platform moves toward the rear side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements rotate inward toward the second group of cleaning elements; and~~
wherein the resilient material is an elastomeric material and the third group of cleaning elements are elastomeric wipers, the elastomeric wipers integrally formed with the elastomer material that flexibly attaches the platform to the upstanding wall.

97. (Previously presented) The toothbrush of claim 90 further comprising a mechanical vibratory device which causes the head to vibrate.

98. (Currently amended) The toothbrush of claim 90 further comprising:
~~a third group of cleaning elements mounted on the resilient material and extending outward from the front side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements arranged on~~

~~opposing sides of the platform so that as the platform moves toward the rear side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements rotate inward toward the second group of cleaning elements; and~~

wherein the first and second groups of cleaning elements are bristles and the third group of cleaning elements are elastomeric wipers.

99. (Currently amended) The toothbrush of claim 90 further comprising:

~~a third group of cleaning elements mounted on the resilient material and extending outward from the front side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements arranged on opposing sides of the platform so that as the platform moves toward the rear side of the head, the third group of cleaning elements rotate inward toward the second group of cleaning elements; and~~

wherein the first and second groups of cleaning elements are bristles and the third group of cleaning elements are elastomeric wipers;

wherein the resilient material are flexibly attaches the platform to the upstanding wall is in a form selected from a group consisting of a membrane, plastic straps, webbing, and a plurality of spaced-apart bridges;

wherein the handle further comprises a neck, the upstanding wall being non-movable with respect to the neck; and

wherein the first group of cleaning element circumferentially surround the central opening.